

REMARKS

The Office Action dated December 13, 2007, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1-2, 6-7, 11, 13-18, 20-21, 25-27, 30, 32-36, 40, and 42-50 are currently pending in the application, of which claims 1, 18, 20, 35, 46-47, and 50 are independent claims. Claims 1, 11, 13-15, 18, 20-21, 25-27, 30, 32-36, and 42-47 have been amended, and claims 48-50 have been added, to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. No new matter has been added. Claims 3-5, 8-10, 12, 19, 22-24, 28-29, 31, 37-39, 41 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-2, 6-7, 11, 13-18, 20-21, 25-27, 30, 32-36, 40, and 42-50 are respectfully submitted for consideration and timely allowance.

Claim 31 was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, but was objected to as depending from rejected base claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter. The allowable subject matter of claim 31 has been incorporated into all of the presently pending claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance.

The following art-based rejections were presented:

- Claims 1-3, 6-8, 10-16, 18-19, 35-36, and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,230,017 of Andersson et al. (“Andersson”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,011,973 of Valentine et al. (“Valentine”).

- Claims 4-5, 9, 23-24, 27-28, 34, and 37-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andersson in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,775,534 of Lindgren et al. (“Lindgren”).

- Claims 17 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andersson in view of Official Notice as to what was allegedly “known in the art.”

- Claims 43-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andersson in view of Valentine and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,201,973 of Kowaguchi (“Kowaguchi”) and U.S. Patent No. 6,594,492 of Choi (“Choi”).

- Claims 20-22, 25-26, 29-30, 32-33, and 46-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Andersson.

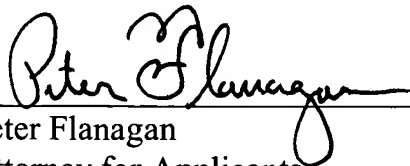
It is respectfully submitted that each of these rejections is moot in view of the amendments above, which incorporate allowable subject matter into each of the pending claims, as well as the cancellation of the other claims. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn as moot because each of the claims has either been cancelled or amended to include allowable subject matter.

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1-2, 6-7, 11, 13-18, 20-21, 25-27, 30, 32-36, 40, and 42-50 recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited art. It is, therefore, respectfully requested that all of claims 1-2, 6-7, 11, 13-18, 20-21, 25-27, 30, 32-36, 40, and 42-50 be allowed, and that this application be passed to issuance.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned representative at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time
Additional Claims Transmittal
Check No. 18561